

## **Appendix A: Public Comments Received for North Chamberlain Conservation EA**

**Comments:** Received at the Public Hearing for the North Chamberlain Conservation Project held in Ovando at the Community Church on May 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. (transcribed notes):

**Juanita Vero.** I'm with E-L Ranch. I whole-heartedly support the both conservation easements. I am proud of this project. It fits really well with the past work in the Blackfoot.

**Roy, O'Connor.** I'm an adjacent landowner and have a conservation easement on my property. I am happy to see this land go into public ownership and managed for sustainable use. I particularly like the riparian work. I have given FWP water leases on Pearson and Chamberlain Creeks. Both streams support westslope cutthroat trout. I have been in contact with some of my neighbors--Tom Meredith and Jay Proops--and they support the project too.

**Hank Goetz.** I whole-heartedly support the project and am happy to see the two agencies complete the deal.

**Greg Neudecker.** I'm with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and I strongly support both easements as they stand. I want to thank the Blackfoot Challenge, The Nature Conservancy and agencies for their hard work.

**Steve Kloetzel.** I am with The Nature Conservancy but am speaking as a citizen of Ovando. I support the public and wildlife benefits of this project.

**Bernie Hall.** I am speaking for the Nature Conservancy. I support the DNRC acquisition. This is great for the people of Montana having this land in the public trust.

**Scott Gordon.** I'm with the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited. I support the project for westslope cutthroat trout protection and for the benefits to the Blackfoot River.

**Tony Liane.** I'm with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). This is a good project for school trust lands. Without the easement, DNRC could not purchase the property. This project has removed that problem. High land values can reduce the return to the school trust. The conservation easement is making this work for the schools.

**Comment:**

As an owner of property on the Blackfoot, I fully support the transfer in that it will help the fishery habitat and management of that property.

Thanks. Harry Wilson.

(Received 11 May 2010, 11:06 a.m. via email.)

**Comment:**

Great thing. Proceed as proposed.

Denley M. Loge.

(Received 29 Apr 2010, 10:11 a.m. via email)

**Comment:**

Greetings Mr. Saffel,

Attached to this email [see following 2 pages] is a PDF, containing comments regarding the North Chamberlain Conservation Project. Please let me know if you have any questions or problems with the PDF.

Sincerely,

Fred Kellner

(Received 21 May 2010, 2:22 p.m. via email)

May, 18 2010

Pat Saffel  
Region 2 FWP  
3201 Spurgion Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804



RE: COMMENTS CHAMBERLIN EA

Dear Mr. Saffel,

With more than 250 members and based in Western Montana, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HHA) is a conservation organization that represents men and women who are working to sustain our fair chase hunting and fishing heritage. Given the North Chamberlain Conservation Project's (NCCP) close proximity to Missoula, and the substantial hunting and fishing opportunities present in the Blackfoot Watershed, the proposed actions of the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) regarding this project are of interest to HHA's Membership.

**Support for Alternative A**

HHA supports Alternative A because it would provide the highest number of benefits for hunters, anglers, wildlife, community members, and recreationalists. By working between government agencies and private conservation organizations the FWP's proposed actions on the NCCP will help to protect our past heritage while ensuring a vibrant future for the region.

**Benefits of Alternative A**

- Ensure goals and values outlined by the Blackfoot Challenge.
- Continued accesses to the Blackfoot Block Management Area, as well walk-in hunting on property previously managed by Plum Creek Timber Company.
- Keep the region and properties in large land tracts which will allow for easier public agency management, and curb residential property development.
- Provide habitat and protection for species such as bull trout, west slope cutthroat, mountain whitefish, lynx, grizzly bear, ungulates and many other non-game species.
- Increased protection to riparian zones.
- Potential revenue generation for State School Trust.

*over*

**Conclusion**

HHA appreciates your consideration of our comments regarding the proposed North Chamberlain Conservation Project. HHA feels that it is vital to preserve hunter access in this region. Implementing Alternative A will help to accomplish this, along with providing benefits to members of our plant, wildlife, and human communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred Kellner", is positioned above the typed name.

Fred Kellner  
Board of Directors  
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers  
PO Box 7792  
Missoula, MT 59807  
406-542-3144  
hellgatewildlife@yahoo.com



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lolo National Forest

Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, MT 59804-7297  
406 329-3750

File Code: 1560/2600-1

Date: MAY 14 2010

Mack Long  
Regional Supervisor  
Region 2 Headquarters  
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804-3101

RECEIVED  
MAY 18 2010

BY: .....

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment North Chamberlain Conservation Project.

Please consider this letter in support of the proposed action, Alternative A, described in the April 2010 Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) Draft Environmental Assessment North Chamberlain Conservation Project. The alternative would allow FWP to direct federal Habitat Conservation Plan funds toward the purchase of two permanent Conservation Easements, North Chamberlain and Sunset Hill, to protect 16,864 acres of fish and wildlife habitat in the Blackfoot River watershed. The Forest understands that the easements would assure that fish and wildlife habitat is protected from subdivision and development and appreciates the additional protection measures to ensure that any future timber management would be conducted in a manner that contributes to the conservation of fish and wildlife (Appendix B, pp. B-5 through B-9).

As you know, the Lolo National Forest encompasses the southern terminus of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem as well as numerous subwatersheds associated with the Blackfoot and Clearwater River systems. The Forest agrees with FWP's objective to maintain and improve important habitat for westslope cutthroat and bull trout as well as preserve movement corridors for species such as Canada lynx and grizzly bear that may move from the Forest to the Garnets and beyond.

The Forest looks forward to our continued collaborative efforts in the Blackfoot-Clearwater area.

Sincerely,

*Acting for* *Brendan J. Wilder*  
DEBORAH L. R. AUSTIN  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Lee Bastian, Regional Parks Manager





May 3, 2010

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Attn: Mr. Pat Saffel, Region 2 Fisheries Manager  
3201 Spurgin Rd  
Missoula, MT 59804

Dear Mr. Saffel,

The Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to offer our strong support of the North Chamberlain and Sunset Hill Conservation Easements. We commend the efforts of the parcel Landowners, The Nature Conservancy, DNRC, Blackfoot Challenge and MTFWP for their collaborative efforts to develop such an important project.

Our mission is to restore and preserve the cold water fishery of the Blackfoot River and its tributaries. The conservation parcel possesses exceptional native fisheries values, including among the highest concentration of known (fluvial) westslope cutthroat trout spawning (and juvenile densities) within the Blackfoot Basin. We are also committed to help complete the Chamberlain/Bear Creek Forest Riparian Recovery project which focuses specifically on correcting the last known fisheries-related habitat problems (i.e. road encroachment issues) associated with two primary tributaries in this conservation parcel.

This project demonstrates the ability to concurrently support both a working landscape and important natural resources such as native westslope cutthroat trout, critical instream habitat and high quality riparian areas. It involves perpetually conserving a parcel in the heart of the Blackfoot Valley that supports the largest known spawning run of migratory westslope cutthroat trout *and* community values such as recreational access and appropriate management actions. We view this project as critical to the sustainability of our community based, native fish recovery effort.

Sincerely,

Paul Nisbet  
Board President